

2025 Newsletter

Walleye Stocking in 2024



*See Page 8
for details*



2024 LAA Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 10:00 am

South Side Township Hall

Guest Speaker(s): TBD

More Specific Information will be found on our Facebook Group Page soon.

Here are some pictures from last years 2024 Lake Augusta Association Annual Meeting.



Find us on:
facebook®

If you have not already done so, please be sure to join our Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050838251787106>.

Since this is a closed (private) group, so you will need to hit the "Request to Join" button.

We are currently over 350 members.

4th of July Boat Parade

Friday, July 4 @ 2:00

See page 3 for details



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Topics at Lake Augusta

Message from our President

By: Jack Gleason

It's been a good start to a great summer on the lake. I heard from some residents that are fishing, telling me how clear the lake is and can see so many fish swimming around, but they will not bite.

That could be a good sign for the summer to swim and float around on the lake.

We did not treat the lake this spring. The DNR said no to our Treatment Permit Application, but said that property owners can do their own if they want by applying for your own permit to do your shoreline.

The water level was down this spring due to another winter without much snow, but now it, like last year, the late spring rains have come and now the water levels are rising again. They joy of living on a Lake. Please be careful by the shorelines with speed of boats and the island.

The fourth of July is coming soon, It's hard to believe.

Have a great summer and Happy Fourth.

Jack Gleason

LAA President

612-751-1050



LIMNOpro

Lake, River, and Pond Management

www.limnopro.com

AIS Treatment for 2025

By: Mike Elms

This spring, we had an explosion of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in Lake Augusta. CLP is a Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that has been in Lake Augusta as well as most of the lakes in our area for many years.

It grew extremely fast during that warm weather stretch that we had around mid-May. Seems like maybe it was just the perfect weather and conditions for CLP growth this year?

The LAA hired LimnoPro to conduct a Meandering Delineation Survey looking specifically for CLP, which they found in abundance on 4-30-2025. A DNR Permit Application was submitted to the DNR. For some reason, the application was rejected and we were not allowed to treat Lake Augusta for CLP.

We suspect that with the warmer weather in late April/early May, the water temperatures were rising quickly. The water temperature was 57F when this CLP survey was done.



The DNR does not allow for CLP Treatment when the water temperatures are at 60F or above. The reason for this is that 60F is when many of the native aquatic plants start to actively grow. The DNR does not want any treatment for CLP to accidentally affect native plant life.

Curly Leaf Pondweed starts growing earlier than other aquatic plants, but it will also start to die off on its own in mid/late June.

We plan on doing another Point Intercept Study in early July to determine if we have much growth of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) this year. Depending on the results of the survey, we will apply for a DNR permit to treat any EWM found. Last year, we did treat several areas of EWM in early August near the Clearwater River inlet.

As has been the case for the past several years, we will also have a 3rd point intercept survey done in late August/early September to determine the effectiveness of the EWM treatment and also look for any signs of starry stonewort (SSW).

4th of July Boat Parade 2025

This Year's Annual 4th of July Boat Parade is set for:

Thursday, July 4nd at 2 p.m.

By Rhonda Small



This year's annual 4th of July Boat Parade is set for **July 4th at 2 p.m.** Everyone on Lake Augusta is invited to participate. Join us as part of the parade or cheer us on from shore.

Get your camera's/phones out and cheer on the boaters as they pass by! Post your photos to facebook and show off your love for Lake Augusta!

Boaters should meet in the middle of the lake near the island at 1:45. We will then take a slow ride around Lake Augusta in the direction shown in the image below. At the end, we will take a lap past each other so even the boaters get to see the parade. Get dressed up, decorate your boat or pontoon and wave your flags.

If weather is bad, stay tuned on Facebook for updates.



Let's Celebrate our Country's Birthday on Lake Augusta!



A few Photo's from Last Years.....Non-Parade

Mother Nature did not cooperate last year, with rain for most of the day, so the 2024 Boat Parade was cancelled. However, later in the evening, a couple Pontoons were observed having their own mini-parade.

You got to love that 4th of July Spirit.



Why Join and Support the Lake Augusta Association?

"One of the most valuable and productive things that lakeshore residents can do for protecting or preserving their lakes water quality is to form an effective lake association."

Last year, your membership dues helped us stock Lake Augusta with walleye. Check out the article in this newsletter for more details. Just one more way your membership dues will help us continue to provide a quality recreational fishing for our residents.

Your membership dues also contribute to preventing and treating AIS (aquatic invasive species). Ensuring the well-being of our lake requires proactive measures to safeguard against invasive species like Starry Stonewort, discovered in Clearwater Lake.

Your LAA Membership dues also help support many things to make this a great lake to live and play on. One of those things is bog maintenance. Some of you have seen in the past the damage a loose bog can do to your personal property as well as the entire lake if it clogs the bridge. It can be devastating. But LAA has been very proactive in maintaining loose bogs so they no longer cause damage. IF you are a LAA member, you have access to this permit to help prevent damaging bogs in our lake.

Update on Starry Stonewort (SSW) in Clearwater Lake

By: Mike Elms

Starry Stonewort (SSW) was first discovered in Minnesota in August, 2015 in Lake Koronis (near Paynesville, MN). It has also been found in several lakes in our area including: Lake Sylvia, Pleasant Lake and now in Clearwater Lake last August, 2023 during a routine Point Intercept Survey. Please go to the Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) for the most up to date information: <https://clpo.org>

Brief Highlights:

- SSW was found along South Shore in East Basin, covering 1.8 acres. Area is clearly marked by 14 Floating Signs. Please stay away from that area.
- Original Infestation was estimated to have occurred about 3 years ago. Source has not been identified.
- 4 Treatments were done last fall (2024) using Mizzen (Copper triethanolamine complex).
- No SSW has been found at any of the Public Landings on Clearwater to date.
- Clearwater Lake Property Owners Association (CLPO) is working with Blue Water Science, MN DNR, Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) and Lake Restoration.
- Three Treatments are planned for this year (2025) with maybe a 4th treatment, if needed.
- An initial delineation survey was done on June 7, 2025 that did not find any SSW. That was very early, so the extent is still relatively unknown.



How to deal with Floating Bogs in Lake Augusta

By Jack Gleason:

Our lake needs all eyes on the lookout for floating bogs in Lake Augusta. They have the potential of blocking the bridge to Clearwater and causing quickly rising water and serious damage in Lake Augusta. If you see any bogs that are bigger than 15 feet in size, we will need to remove them before the bog gets to the bridge. I will be the contact to call if that happens. I will get in touch with anyone else to help out to keep it from getting to the bridge and I have to notify the DNR, Watershed and the contractor to removal. You can call any time or text me.



Bogs under 15 Feet wide:

If a bog lands on your property that is under 15 wide, the Lake Augusta Association has a DNR Permit that allows any active member of the Lake Augusta Association to relocate or remove the bog. Contact the LAA for specific information.

Bogs over 15 Feet Wide:

If you see a bog that is over 15 feet wide floating in Augusta, please contact Jack Gleason, President of the LAA as soon as possible, or any Board Member of the LAA. A DNR Permit will be required. The LAA will apply for a DNR permit and we also have resources & contacts to remove the large bog before any damage is done or it blocks the Bridge to Clearwater. The LAA does have a fund at the Clearwater River Watershed District to pay for any large bog removal.



Contact: Jack Gleason, President of LAA, Phone or Text: **612-751-1050**.

LAA Email: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com.

An email to LAA concerning new Proposed Sunfish Regulation:

Hey All, I know that the paint is barely dry on the new panfish regulations (reduced bags on sunfish and crappie) on Clearwater and connected lakes, but I was contacted last week by our DNR Internal Panfish Technical Committee inquiring about interest in testing a new experimental regulation on a few lakes.

They are looking for 15 – 20 lakes statewide to test a new experiment regulation for sunfish. The new experiment regulation would increase the possession limit back to 20; however, only 5 sunfish > 8 inches would be allowed in the possession limit.



I know there were a few at the public input meeting that voiced concern that reducing the limit to ten would increase harvest of the larger fish and they would like to see a length-based regulation. At the time of our Clearwater Lake proposal this regulation was not an option, but now they are gauging interest. I have not offered up the Clearwater Chain as of yet but would like to gauge your thoughts/interest regarding changing the regulations again on the Clearwater Chain to be part of the study.

A timeline would look something like this:

December 2025 – propose changing the sunfish regulation from 10 fish daily possession limit to a 20 fish possession limit of which only 5 can be \geq 8 inches.

May 1 – Oct. 1, 2026 – Post public successes that regulations may change.

May – Oct. 2026 – Online public input accepted. Virtual public meeting held sometime Sept. – Oct.

December 2026 – decision made

March 1, 2027 – New Regulation goes into effect.

By: Steve Ladwig

Most experimental regulations would be in place for 10 years and then reevaluated. I would suspect that we will see similar results to the reduced 10 fish daily bag; however, this regulation may be more palatable to anglers as we would be allowing anglers to harvest more fish if they so choose and protecting a few more of the larger adults.

I am open to your thoughts. Again, this is just for sunfish. The reduced crappie regulation will stay in place at 5. We are just in the vetting stages for lakes and nothing has been finalized.

Thanks, **Joe Stewig** Area Fisheries Manager | FAW - Section of Fisheries

Minnesota DNR
1035 South Benton Drive
Sauk Rapids, MN, 56379
Phone: 320-223-7867
Email: joe.stewig@state.mn.us

Lake Augusta Fish Regulations (Including CW and other area lakes)

By: Jeremy Jordet

As summer fishing heats up on beautiful Lake Augusta, we'd like to offer a friendly reminder about the current fishing regulations for sunfish, crappie, northern pike, bass, perch, channel catfish and walleye. These rules help maintain a healthy fish population and ensure that everyone can enjoy great fishing for years to come.

Sunfish: Daily Limit: 10 - Sunfish numbers can decline quickly if overharvested. Please take only what you need and practice catch-and-release when possible. Season is continuous all year.



Crappie: Daily Limit: 5 - Crappies are fun to catch and delicious to eat. Be mindful of the limit and help protect future crappie generations. Season is continuous all year.



Northern Pike: Daily Limit: 10 (with size restrictions) - Only 2 pike over 26 inches may be kept. All pike between 22 and 26 inches must be released - This regulation is designed to reduce the number of smaller pike while protecting the midsize range to improve the overall size structure of the population. Season: May 10, 2024 - February 22, 2026.



Walleye: Daily Limit: 6 - Only 1 walleye over 20 inches may be kept. Walleye are a prized catch in Minnesota waters. Following the slot limit helps maintain a strong breeding population and supports long-term sustainability. Season: May 10, 2024 - February 22, 2026.



Largemouth Bass: Daily Limit, May 10-23, Catch and Release Only. May 24, 2025— Feb. 22, 2026: 6 Bass.



Channel Catfish: Daily Limit: 5 (Only 1 over 24 Inches). Season is continuous all year.



Perch: Daily Limit: 20 Daily, 40 in Possession. Season is continuous all year.

We encourage everyone to review the full Minnesota DNR fishing regulations before heading out. Whether you're casting from the dock or cruising in the boat, thank you for doing your part to preserve the balance of Lake Augusta's ecosystem. Wishing you a safe and successful fishing season!

NEW BOATER EDUCATION LAW

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2025

Starting on July 1, 2025, a new Minnesota law will require some adults and youth who operate motorboats—including personal watercraft—to have a valid watercraft operator's permit. People who already have a watercraft operator's permit are not affected by the law, which is designed to make boating safer by ensuring everyone operating a motorized watercraft knows the rules and is properly trained. Here's a breakdown of the key points:



Adult operators:

- Permit requirement: Some adults (defined below) will need a valid operator's permit to drive any motorboat or personal watercraft starting July 1, 2025.
- Exemptions: Some adults are exempt from this requirement. Check the law for specific exemptions.
- Supervised operation: People without a permit still can operate a boat, but only if there's an accompanying operator (defined below) onboard.



Young operators:

- Restrictions on high-powered watercraft: Young operators (people less than 12 years old), can't operate a personal watercraft or any motorboat with a motor over 75 horsepower.
- Low-powered motorboats: Young operators can operate a motorboat that's not a personal watercraft and has a motor under 75 horsepower as long as there is an accompanying operator in the motorboat.



Who is considered an adult operator?

Is 12 years old or older, and was born after these dates: June 30, 2004 (starts July 1, 2025), June 30, 2000 (starts July 1, 2026), June 30, 1996 (starts July 1, 2027), June 30, 1987 (starts July 1, 2028).

This means people born after June 30, 2004, will need a permit to

For more Information:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/boater-education-law.html>

SIGN UP NOW to take the watercraft operator's permit course:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html>

If you see any violations or unsafe conduct:

Please take pictures and/or video and report them to the Wright and/or Stearns County Sheriff's Water Patrol Department. Please try to get the Boat or Jet-Ski Licence Number and Driver in Photo/Video (if possible).

Wright County Water Patrol Officer:

Drew.Scherber@co.wright.mn.us (763) 684-4534

MN DNR 1035 South Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
320-223-7878 • saukrapids.fisheries@state.mn.us

To find your conservation officer visit:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/officerpatrolareas>
Annandale Area Conservation Officer: Adam Stennett
Turn in Poachers (TIP) Information Center: 800-652-9093
Call the [TIP Hotline](#) to report a violation: 888-646-6367

LAA Board Members:

Jack Gleason - President: calljackgleason@aol.com

Mike Elms - Vice-President: mkelms6337@gmail.com

Joel Von Ende - Treasurer: joelv@danetechnologies.com

Rhonda Small - Secretary: rhonda.small@rsparch.com

Steve Ladwig: sdladwig@comcast.net

Wes Boll: wes.boll@mooreengineeringinc.com

North Side Representative:

Greg Alberg (Stearns County): gregalberg@gmail.com

Advisor:

Roger Rauschendorfer: rrauschendorfer@gmail.com

All LAA Board Members are 100% Volunteers

Questions/Comments: lakeaugustaassociation@gmail.com

Looking to get active in our Lake Augusta Association?
Contact any LAA Board Member listed above.

CRWD Mission Statement: To promote, preserve and protect water and natural resources within the boundaries of the District in order to maintain property values, recreational opportunities, and quality of life.

Carp Management, Clearwater River Chain of Lakes

By Wes Boll.

2024 Carp Tracking and Management Efforts Summary



As outlined in detail in the 2024 LAA Newsletter, the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) has been conducting a study of carp populations by trapping and tracking carp in the Clearwater Chain of Lakes upstream of Lake Augusta (Clear, Betsy, Caroline, Louisa, Marie, Scott, and Union.)

The initial purpose of the study is to assess carp populations in each of the study lakes, measured in estimated weight per unit area ("biomass"). Goals of the study also include identifying the breeding grounds for carp populations in each lake, and determining potential management strategies that could benefit water quality. The CRWD hopes that the carp management will result in improved water clarity, reduced phosphorus concentrations, and reduced algae blooms in the lakes where removal takes place and downstream of those lakes. In 2024, CRWD used initial findings to guide netting and harvest of carp in Betsy, Marie/Louisa, and Lake Caroline.



While carp tracking and management did not occur in Lake Augusta, several of the lakes where carp populations were found to be high and where management was conducted are directly upstream of Lake Augusta. Management of the carp populations in upstream lakes, especially in Lake Caroline, which has a direct connection to Lake Augusta, could potentially contribute to improving water quality in Lake Augusta.

While the previous studies suggested high populations of carp in Lake Caroline, Louisa, and Marie, the trapping efforts did not remove large numbers of carp from the lakes. Generally, a smaller number of large carp were captured, indicating that Caroline has a moderate carp population made up of larger, older carp. Similarly, a smaller number of large carp were removed from Lakes Louisa and Marie in 2024. The removal of these large carp reduced the biomass of carp in the lake.

2025 Carp Management Plans

Future management efforts are currently not planned for Lake Caroline or Louisa and Marie, since populations were found to be not as abundant as expected and the biomass is likely below the threshold where carp are expected to cause significant ecological damage.



Carp Removals - Box Nets 2024

Louisa and Marie (4 nets pulled 4 times)

- 471 Carp Removed (19% Population)
- ~5,800 lbs Removed
- 14 Tagged Carp Recaptured
- Biomass Density: 102 kg/ha reduced to 83 kg/ha

Caroline (3 Nets pulled 4 times)

- 370 Carp Removed (11% of Population)
- 4,300 lbs Removed
- Only 3 tagged Carp were Recaptured out of 35

For More Information: <https://www.crwd.org/carp-management-2023-2024.html>

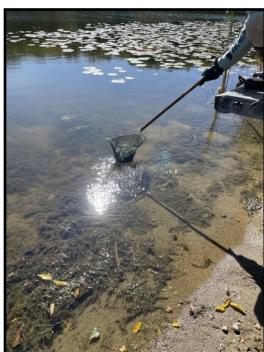
Walleye Stocking in Lake Augusta in 2024

By: Steve Ladwig

Last October 2024, the LAA stocked 65 lbs of Walleye into Lake Augusta for the first time. Instead of stocking Walleye Fry or Fingerlings, we had the option to purchase Walleye over 1 year old.

These fish were generally in the 10" - 12" range. While we got fewer fish per pound compared to fingerlings, the survival rate is likely to be greatly increased. We used the Jim Bosek Fishery, Garfield, MN.

The LAA is allowed to stock 65 Lbs of Walleye per year by the DNR Fisheries Department. This equates to 1 pound/Littoral Acre. A Littoral Acre is the shallow area near the shore where sunlight can penetrate to the bottom and support the growth of aquatic plants. This is generally the area less than 15 feet deep.



The Minnesota DNR has given Lake August Association authorization to stock walleyes every year at a rate of 65 lbs. Generally, the DNR would like to see every other year to get an idea on mortality rate. At only 65 lbs. the decision is being left up to the Lake Augusta Association board whether they want to spend the money to stock walleyes every year or not.

Last year the cost was \$21 dollars per pound for walleyes at 65 pounds (\$1,365). This money comes directly from the Annual Membership Dues to the Lake Augusta Association.



Northern Pike Regulations and Why Keep Small "Hammer Handles"

By: Wes Boll.

In 2018, the MN DNR implemented new limits for northern pike and divided the state into three different zones with different limits. In the north-central zone (where Lake Augusta and Clearwater are located), many lakes are plagued by an overabundance of small pike (generally less than 22 inches). Too many small pike can negatively affect fisheries in a lake by reducing perch and other baitfish numbers, skewing panfish populations to smaller sizes, and reducing the success of walleye stocking efforts. These "hammer handles" as they are sometimes called are also notorious for biting through fishing line and swimming away with expensive fishing tackle while anglers are pursuing other desired species.



In the north-central zone, anglers can keep 10 northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches; and all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. Northern pike taken by spearing follow the same rules except one pike may be between 22 and 26 inches or two larger than 26 inches. The purpose of this regulation is to allow more harvest of the abundant small pike and shift population size structure to more medium-sized pike in order to establish a more balanced fishery.

While limits for small pike are generous, many fisherman do not like to deal with cleaning and eating smaller northern pike, due to the abundant "Y" bones in the filets. When cleaned properly, the bones can be easily removed, and pike make great table fare-some even say they prefer them over walleye.

How to Fillet a Northern Pike without Bones:

<https://youtu.be/puGdrWNhV8A>

<https://gf.nd.gov/fishing/northern-pike/removing-y-bones>

Pickling Northern Pike Recipe:

<https://www.in-fisherman.com/editorial/pickled-fish-recipe/155276>

